

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT *10-2-58*

FROM : S. B. DONAHOE *JD*

SUBJECT: DONALD E. KEYHOE
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(Nationalities Intelligence)

B.C.

DATE: September 26, 1958

1 - Nease
1 - Belmont
1 - Donahoe
1 - Sanders

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Subject, Director of National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, by letter of 9/22/58 requested particulars of Bureau's participation concerning unidentified flying objects. The committee he heads is described on letterhead as "A privately supported fact finding civilian committee serving the public interests" and he lists several prominent individuals among "our Board members and Special Advisers." He is a retired Marine.

Keyhoe has been known to the Bureau since 1935 and was, and may still be, a free-lance writer. In 1948 he was described by Mr. Nichols as "a flamboyant writer and we have found from previous experience that much of his material is irresponsible." In 1951 the Director concurred with Mr. Nichols' statement that "We should not get involved with him."

As an example of his writing, the January, 1941, issue of "Cosmopolitan" magazine carried an article written by Keyhoe and John J. Daly entitled "Hitler's Plan to Seize the United States Merchant Marine." This article indicated the Bureau had in its possession documents concerning such a plan by Hitler which indication was completely false.

EX - 133

REC-21

62-103581-4

The attached suggested letter to Keyhoe responds in a very general way to his questions, some of which are extremely pointed such as "Have FBI Agents told witnesses not to talk about UFO sightings?" and "Does the Bureau make character investigations of UFO witnesses in some cases?" The answers which have been furnished are designed to avoid the charge we have not answered questions yet they are broad in nature to avoid his apparent pointed inquiries. His request for an interview with a Bureau official concerning our policy concerning unidentified flying objects has been side-stepped since there appears to be no point in discussing this matter further with him. JANAP 146 is Defense document re reporting intelligence sightings.

ACTION:

That the attached suggested letter be forwarded to Keyhoe. In view of Air Force interest, copy of incoming with copy of our 62-103581 reply being sent Air Force separately.

Enclosure
ESS:jas
(5)

53 OCT 9 1958

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Nease
Belmont
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REC-101 62-103581-5

September 26, 1958

Major Donald E. Keyhoe, Director.
National Investigations Committee
on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of September 22, 1958,
the following requested information is furnished:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation does
not investigate sightings of unidentified flying
objects. When the details of such a sighting
are reported to representatives of this Bureau,
the information is forwarded to the Air Force.

Representatives of this Bureau do not issue
instructions to individuals who have sighted un-
identified flying objects that they should not
talk about such sightings.

It is not a function of this Bureau to make
character investigations of individuals who have
witnessed unidentified flying objects.

This Bureau does not have information on
unidentified flying objects which can be re-
leased. This does not imply that this Bureau
has information concerning unidentified flying
objects which cannot be released.

It is understood that JANAP 146 is a Department
of Defense document and is not, as such, applicable
to the operations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Possible communication with extraterrestrial
vehicles from another planet, should the unidentified

ESS:jas See cover memo Donahoe to Belmont, captioned
(6) "Donald E. Keyhoe, Miscellaneous - Information
Concerning (Nationalities Intelligence)," dated
9/26/58, ESS:jas.

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J. C. Sullivan

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REC'D HEADQUARTERS
FBI
10-2-58
ESS:jas
1-WFO- w/c

60 OCT 14 1958

Major Donald E. Keyhoe

flying objects prove to be extraterrestrial, is not a function of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This Bureau is, of course, interested in any aspect of any development which would affect the internal security of the United States.

Your letter of September 22, 1958, requested an interview with an official of this Bureau concerning the matter of unidentified flying objects and this Bureau's policy in connection therewith. Since this Bureau's policy in connection with unidentified flying objects has been fully set forth above, you may feel that the requested interview is not now necessary.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover }

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

NICAP

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE, Director

1536 Connecticut Avenue
Washington 6, D. C.
North 7-9434

~~Rose Hackett Campbell~~

~~Richard Hall~~

~~Bess Clark~~

Elizabeth Ann Kendall

Sept.
August 22 1958

6 National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena *Don Keyhoe*

og
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Some time ago I wrote to you about the subject of unidentified flying objects. I congratulated you and the FBI for the exposure of the so-called "Venus swindle"; at that time I told you that this committee is making a serious, factual investigation of UFOs; we have a mass of verified evidence which disproves suggestions that these sightings are caused by mirages, hallucinations, etc.

The standing and serious aim of our committee may be judged by examining a list of our Board members and Special Advisers. Among them are such distinguished citizens as: Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, USN (Ret.), former director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Rear Admiral H. Knowles, USN (Ret.); Colonel Robert Emerson, USAF; Major Dewey Fournet, USAFR, formerly on the Air Force UFO project; Mr. J. B. Hartranft, president, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; and other citizens well known in the fields of education, religion, and science. *my*

I am writing to ask what part, if any, the Federal Bureau of Investigation plays in the official investigation of UFOs. Some years ago, Air Force Intelligence officers once told me, FBI agents helped the Air Force interrogate witnesses on some occasions -- particularly when Air Force representatives were not immediately available. I understand that to a limited extent this has occurred in the last year or so. I have also been told that the FBI has a general directive to help the Air Force in its collection of any UFO information. *REC-93*

These of course would be normal functions of which anyone would approve. In this connection, however, we have received several reports which may or may not be correct. We have been told that on certain occasions FBI agents ordered, or warned, witnesses to UFO sightings not to discuss what they had seen, nor to reveal that they had been interviewed officially. *62-103581-5*

It is possible that the agents suggested or advised such action, rather than giving direct orders.

✓ So far as I know there is no authority to command a private citizen to withhold such information and I am sure the FBI would not approve of such orders without legal authority.

Also, we realize that in some cases even a routine visit by an FBI agent could be misconstrued as carrying serious implications, even requiring silence.

We have been asked about this possibility several times, and I have been questioned once or twice during lectures. We should greatly appreciate having whatever information you can give us so that we may answer such questions, correctly.

Specifically we have been asked:

Does the FBI officially investigate UFO sightings in any way?

Have FBI agents told witnesses not to talk about UFO sightings?

Does the FBI make character investigations of UFO witnesses in some cases?

Does the FBI have any information on UFOs, which can be released?

Is the FBI bound by JANAP 146, as regards the release of UFO sighting reports coming into its possession?

Our Committee believes that censorship of UFO information is not warranted since the Defense Department has repeatedly declared there is no danger involved and no threat to national security. We believe, on the contrary, that the policy of secrecy could under certain circumstances lead to hysteria and possibly even panic. We should like to know whether, in the event that the UFOs prove to be extraterrestrial, the FBI has any assigned part in any official plan to prepare for possible communication with extraterrestrial vehicles from another planet.

Several of our Board members have suggested that interviews with Federal agencies involved in this question could be of mutual benefit. If possible, I should like to have an interview with an FBI official acquainted with the facts, and with the FBI policy which may be involved. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely yours,



DONALD E. KEYHOE, Major USMC (Ret.)
Director of NICAP

DEK:k

1 - Division
1 - Sanders

62-103581

Date: October 2, 1958

To: Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
Building Tempo E
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

6 National Investigation Committee Aerial Phenomena
Subject: ~~DONALD E. KEYHOE~~
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(Nationalities Intelligence)

For your information, there are enclosed two Photostats of a letter dated September 22, 1958, addressed to this Bureau by the subject and two copies of this Bureau's reply dated September 26, 1958.

Enclosures - 4

1 - WFO (Enclosure - copy of Bureau reply to Keyhoe dated September 26, 1958)

NOTE:

Subject's letter made pointed inquiries relating to Bureau's participation in investigations relating to unidentified flying objects. Our reply was general in nature. Copies of incoming and ~~the~~ reply being furnished to OSI since Air Force coordinates matters relating to unidentified flying objects.

ESS:jas
(6)

BY COURIER SVC.

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COMM - FBI

REC-93

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DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI

60 OCT 14 1958

MAIL ROOM ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBIDATE: 7/10/61 39FROM : *KM* SAC, NEW ORLEANS (62-0)SUBJECT: NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Clerical employee WALTER F. MC CALL of the New Orleans Division advised that he is interested in aerial phenomena and wants to become a member of captioned organization. This organization is directed by Major DONALD E. KEYHOE, U. S. Marine Corps (Retired), and is headquartered at 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. MC CALL stated that, to his knowledge, the objectives of this organization, are to keep records of all sightings of unidentified flying objects and to make the information concerning them available to the public, as the organization feels that the U. S. Government is making an effort to suppress this type of information.

Indices of the New Orleans Division are negative concerning captioned organization. The files of this Office reflect that in early 1950, an article concerning a flying disc appeared in True Magazine, written by one DONALD KEYHOE, who is possibly identical with Major KEYHOE. *U.S.A.*

The Bureau is requested to advise this Office of any information in its files concerning captioned organization and whether or not there would be any objection to a clerical employee of the Bureau becoming an active member of same.

- ② - Bureau
1 - New Orleans

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(3)

EEG

EX 100

REC-92

62-103581-11

11 JUL 18 1961

707 12

Letter to SAC, New Orleans
7/17/61

XEROX
JUL 25 1961

CRIMINAL RESEARCH
PERS. FILES

6/2/61
5/2/61

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE 4/18/63

FROM

SAC, SEATTLE (100-26460)(RUC)

SUBJECT.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA (NICAP)
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING
(NATIONALITIES INTELLIGENCE)

Re Norfolk airtel to the Bureau, 3/29/63; Bureau letter to Norfolk, 4/8/63.

On April 9, 1963, no listing for the captioned organization was located in the current Seattle telephone and city directories, or in the 1962 Aero Space Yearbook maintained at the Seattle Public Library. However, the captioned organization is indexed in the indices of the Seattle Public Library.

On April 9, 1963, SA CHARLES N. GIESE reviewed the forward to the book entitled, "Flying Saucers: Top Secret", by Major DONALD E. KEYHOE, U. S. Marine Corps, retired, who is the director of the captioned organization which is headquartered at 1536 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. This book, which has Dewey decimal system classification, R533.69/K521FL, at the Seattle Public Library, was published by G. P. Putnam's Son, New York, under a 1960 copyright. It has Library of Congress Catalogue Card number 60-5267. The forward reveals substantially the same information furnished in Bureau letter to Norfolk, dated April 8, 1963.

KEYHOE is also the author of the following books:

"The Flying Saucers are Real";

"Flying with Lindbergh";

"M Day";

"Flying Saucers from Outer Space"

The latter book has Library of Congress Catalogue Card number 58-9588.

- 2 - Bureau (Reg.)
 - 2 - Norfolk (Reg.)
 - 1 - Seattle
- CNG:bhr
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4 APR 22 1963

NAT. INT. SEC.